

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 13 and 15-18 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 13 and 15 are amended, and claims 14 and 19-24 are canceled. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-15, 17-21, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bando (U.S. Patent No. 5,396,736) in view of Bovone (U.S. Patent No. 5,433,657) and Ercole et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,848,005). In addition, claims 16 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bando, Bovone, Ercole et al., and further in view of Monforte (U.S. Patent No. 4,809,425). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 includes the following new features which Bando, Bovone, Ercole et al. and Monforte do not disclose:

a) wherein said arranging means includes a suction-cup supporting body for supporting said suction cups separately from said grinding supporting table, a suction-cup lifting device for raising the suction cup which is supported by said grinding supporting table or said suction-cup supporting body, and a suction-cup moving device which is adapted to move the suction cup raised by a suction-cup lifting device from on said grinding supporting table onto said suction-cup supporting body or from on said suction-cup supporting body onto said grinding supporting table in correspondence with the shape of the glass plate whose the peripheral edge is to be ground by said grinding means.

wherein said transporting means includes one lifting device for raising the glass plate to be carried in and another lifting device for raising the glass plate on the suction cup to be carried out,

b) wherein said transporting means and said suction-cup moving means share a slider to which said suction-cup lifting device, said one lifting device and said other lifting device are attached, and which is linearly movable in one direction,

c) wherein said arranging means is adapted to move said suction-cup lifting device by a linear movement of said slider in said one direction and a movement of said grinding supporting table of said grinding supporting means so as to be capable of arranging said suction-cup lifting device at a position corresponding to a shape of glass plate on said grinding supporting table.

According to the apparatus defined by the claim 13 including the above new features a) to c), it may not be necessary to individually install a slider for moving a glass plate and a slider for moving a suction-cup, so that it is possible to simplify the structure of the glass-plate working apparatus. Further, the desired number of suction cups is flexibly arranged on said grinding supporting table in correspondence with the shape of the glass plate by said arranging means. Hence, the apparatus of claim 13 makes it possible to arrange said suction cup at a suitable position for sucking and holding the glass plate corresponding to each shape of glass plate.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140 under Order No. PTB-1207-116.

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Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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